



# PLACEMAKING

## Creating a Hub for the Black Community in Vancouver

UBC SCARP Studio — Final Report

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# Appreciation for the People and the Land

Hogan's Alley is located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. These lands have been cared for by their peoples since time immemorial. We recognize their ongoing relationship with this land, its waterways, and all living beings, as well as the vital role these Nations have to play in the land's continued stewardship.

We also honour the historic Black community that called Hogan's Alley home. The Black community whose resilience and culture shaped this space despite systemic displacement. We acknowledge the intersecting histories of colonization and anti-Black racism that have profoundly impacted this area.

We also recognize the negative legacy of scholars approaching equity-deserving knowledge holders to share information for their academic work, then avoiding the proper attribution of that knowledge or not even mentioning the contributions of knowledge holders by name. We will recognize our partners by name, and structure our work to help provide lasting benefits to Hogan's Alley Society.



*From left to right: SCARP Studio Team members Benita Ikirezi Mulindaigwi, Landon Reeves, Nathan Hawkins & Tabitha Kennedy (UBC MCRP candidates, 2025), with Sarah Robinson (UBC SALA alumni, 2024).*

We are deeply grateful to the Hogan's Alley Society and Black Planning Project teams for their support and collaboration which have enriched every aspect of this work. Shayla Bird has been a tireless advocate for our crew, and we are incredibly grateful for her efforts and support. We would also like to extend our thanks to the teaching team, and especially Maged Senbel, for their invaluable guidance and encouragement as we navigated this experience.

We hope to curate relationships rooted in respect, accountability, and justice for Black and Indigenous communities. While the majority of our team is not part of the Black community we hope to support and approach this work with humility, acknowledging our own intersecting identities and privilege and how these shape our perspectives and actions. We understand the importance of listening deeply and using our positions to uplift and amplify community voices. Through our work, we hope to honour the spirit of this place by centering community voices and collective care.

# Executive Summary



This report documents a series of community-led actions and research initiatives undertaken within an 8-month SCARP Planning Studio to support our partner organization, Hogan's Alley Society, in revitalizing Vancouver's historic Black neighborhood. Our work aims to address the erasure of Black spaces and build cultural resilience in Vancouver. Drawing on insights from global case studies (Appendix A) and local engagement activities, we illuminate key challenges and opportunities for Black placemaking in the city. The report culminates in actionable recommendations aimed at bolstering community partnerships, strengthening public space governance, and ensuring the enduring sustainability of Black-led urban development.

To achieve these goals, we propose a range of short and medium-term engagement actions and placemaking recommendations. Together, these strategies are tailored to meet both the immediate needs and long-term aspirations of the community we hope to support.

## Approaches for Placemaking

**Engagement Principles:** A framework was developed to guide future community engagement efforts, prioritizing trust, equity, and inclusivity.

**Community Mapping:** A mapping project documented Black and Indigenous organizations to enhance visibility, strengthen networks, and reduce duplication of efforts.

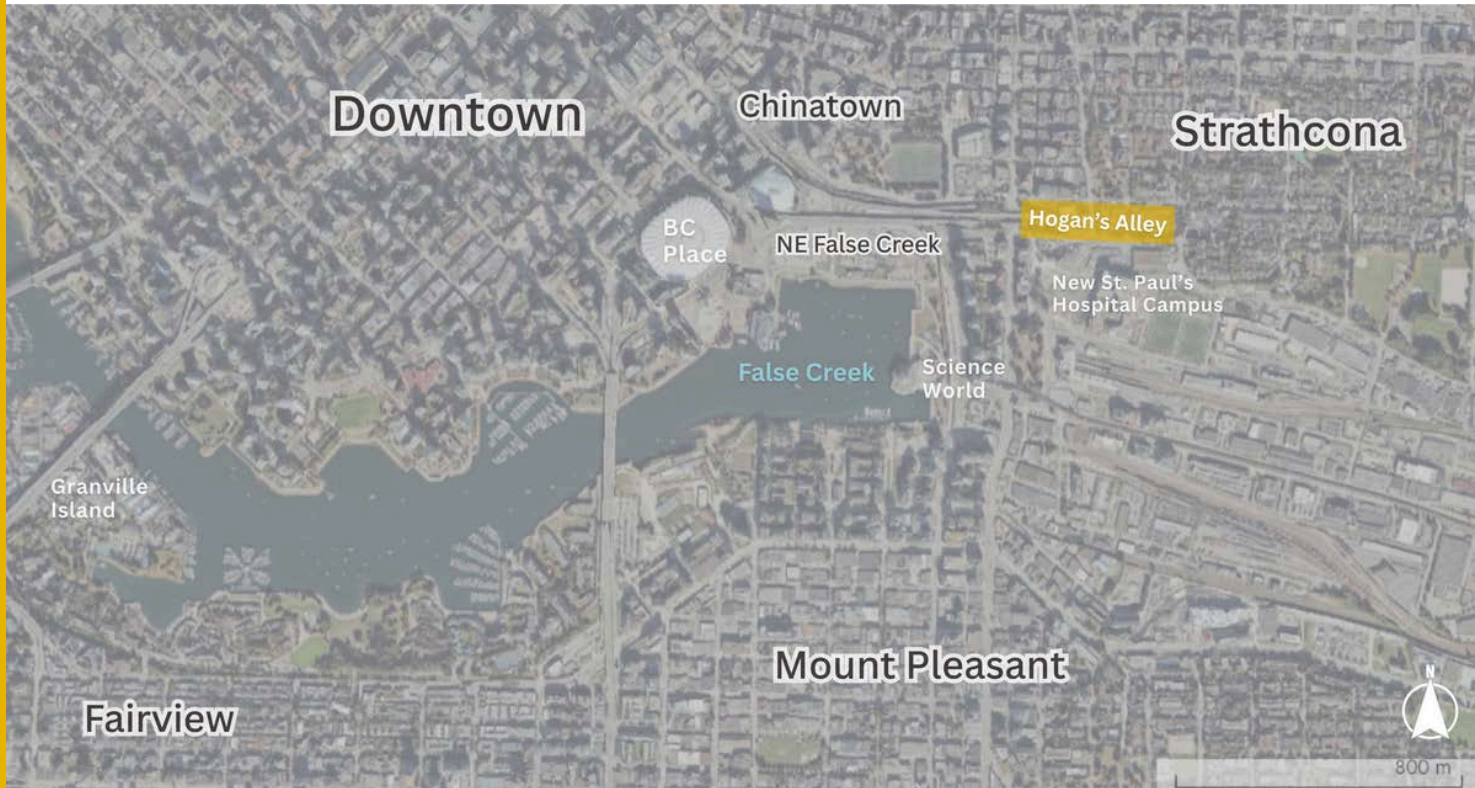
**Housing Engagement:** An event that brought Edmonds, Burnaby community members together to discuss strategies for protecting Black neighbourhoods from gentrification.

**Black Co-Governance of Parks:** A proposed governance model draws inspiration from First Nations co-management frameworks to ensure Black community leadership in public space planning.

**Digital Storytelling:** An investigation into how short-form media can engage Black youth in preserving and sharing Hogan's Alley's history.



**Below:** Location of Hogan's Alley at 898 Main Street (the "898 Block") in Vancouver, British Columbia. Nearby landmarks include Chinatown to the north, the Northeast False Creek waterfront to the west, and the site of the future St. Paul's Hospital campus to the south.



**Above:** Aerial view of the Hogan's Alley Block; bordered by Union Street to the north, Prior Street to the south, Main Street to the west, and Jackson Avenue to the east. The Community Land Trust extends from Main St to Gore Ave. Major streets in the area include Main Street, Prior Street, Union Street, Georgia Street, and Dunsmuir Street. The Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts which currently pass over the Block are slated for removal within the redevelopment plan for [Northeast False Creek \(2018\)](#).



# Language

Language shapes our understanding of the world. Words carry meaning, history, and power. In this section, we explore the deliberate choices we have made in our language, acknowledging that these choices are not arbitrary but intentional.

## Master Plan

We have opted to use the term ‘Comprehensive Plan’ in lieu of ‘Master Plan’.

The term ‘master’ carries painful connotations rooted in hierarchical and oppressive systems, particularly for Black communities. By transitioning to the term Comprehensive Plan, we hope to use inclusive forward-looking language that aligns with our values of equity and respect.

## Foster

The word ‘foster’ can have complex and painful associations. The foster care system has disproportionately impacted marginalized communities, particularly Black and Indigenous families. This system has served as a tool of systemic disruption, removing children from their homes under the guise of protection and welfare. For many, this term evokes traumatic experiences of displacement and loss. Because of this, we have chosen to intentionally use other more inclusive language (e.g., steward, nurture, promote, enrich).

## Adopt

In Canada, adoption systems have often disrupted Black and Indigenous families. This system has facilitated cultural erasure and perpetuated systems of inequality. Black and Indigenous children are overrepresented in adoption systems and are frequently placed in homes outside of their cultural contexts which can contribute to a loss of cultural identity and heritage. For many, this term is associated with forced assimilation and loss of agency, therefore we have chosen to use different language throughout this report (e.g., embrace, take up).

## Ownership

The term ‘ownership’ carries historical and cultural weight, particularly due to its ties to slavery and capitalist systems that prioritize individual possession over collective care. Framing everything through ownership can reinforce systems that have long been used to dispossess Black people of their land and autonomy. In recognition of these impacts, we have chosen to use language that reflects shared care and accountability (e.g., stewardship, responsibility).

Language is always evolving, and so is our understanding of the power it holds. We encourage readers to reflect on the words they use in their own work and conversations. By being intentional with language, we can contribute to more equitable and inclusive ways of understanding and engaging with the world.



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# Introduction

Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) aims to knit a new cultural fabric of Black excellence and community in Strathcona, at the location where Vancouver's original Black community was forcibly displaced by racist urban renewal ideologies. HAS has a mandate to co-create a new Hogan's Alley that will be the new heart of the Black community and a place to celebrate and share Black culture and history.

Conceiving this identity is a unique challenge in Vancouver. In other Canadian cities, Black neighbourhoods faced urban renewal but endured as cultural centres for Black residents, and their identity has continued due to a concentrated population. In Vancouver, many Black residents moved back to the USA, or relocated in the Lower Mainland. This is an exodus of people and an exodus of memories, elevating the importance of knowledge holders to maintain Black histories and places of significance. Today Surrey and Burnaby are home to the most Black residents, but they are dispersed instead of a Black enclave like Little Jamaica in Toronto. This lack of visibility makes it harder for individuals to find community, especially immigrants unfamiliar with Vancouver. It is also important to remind ourselves that the Black community is not a monolith. There is a tension between Black families who have lived in Canada for generations, and Black families who are recent immigrants and culturally identify with their home country. Recent immigrants often focus on urgent needs: "how do I get a study permit, find a place to rent, find a job, or get PR status?" and may not have the capacity to learn about local Black histories or participate in neighbourhood planning. Bringing these groups together to create a shared, inclusive identity is HAS' goal.

Our project builds upon the foundational work of HAS by engaging with the complexities of Black placemaking in Vancouver. Through a series of community-centered actions, we have sought to understand the unique challenges facing Black residents and organizations, while also identifying opportunities to build cultural resilience.

This report outlines the key engagement activities we conducted, ranging from designing engagement principles to placemaking activities and governance frameworks that center Black voices in urban planning. Each activity is designed to support HAS's broader mission of revitalizing Hogan's Alley as a dynamic cultural hub that reflects the histories, identities, and aspirations of Black communities in Vancouver.

We begin by examining relevant literature and case studies that inform our approach, drawing on global examples of Black placemaking and community-driven urban renewal. From there, we present a synthesis of our engagement activities, detailing the methods, outcomes, and lessons learned from our work. Finally, we conclude with a set of recommendations to guide future planning, policy, and collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening the Black community presence and agency in the city.

Our work is rooted in the understanding that community-led development is an iterative, evolving process. While this report captures our contributions thus far, we see it as a living document that will continue to grow as new insights emerge. By prioritizing collective action and sustained engagement, we aim to support HAS in laying the groundwork for a thriving and self-determined future for Hogan's Alley.



Photo credit: Gilbert Murere.



# Literature Review

## Black Placemaking

In 2022, the City of Vancouver and Hogan's Alley Society signed a memorandum of understanding committing to working together to redevelop the 898 Main St. Block following the removal of Georgia viaducts (City of Vancouver, 2022). The removal of the freeways has the potential to address the impacts of urban renewal and transform these "non-places" into vibrant areas with streets, amenities, and social opportunities (Douglas, 2024). In Vancouver, removing the Georgia viaducts will create a significant opportunity to reimagine Hogan's Alley as a site for Black placemaking and community revitalization.

The concept of Black Placemaking is a practice where Black communities actively reclaim spaces historically shaped by exclusion and systematic oppression. Hunter et al. (2016) define Black placemaking as ways Black urban residents "create spaces of resilience, belonging, and resistance" by transforming oppressive urban landscapes into vibrant sites of joy, political expression, and cultural celebration. This approach focuses on the collective well-being of Black people and challenges traditional urban frameworks through acts of social solidarity and cultural expression. Similarly, Carter (2014) highlights the adaptability and resilience of Black placemaking within spaces marked with historical trauma, such as the Civil Rights Memorial in New Orleans. She demonstrates how Black placemaking in sites of remembrance facilitates collective healing and redefines boundaries, both physical and symbolic, to envision futures that transcend oppression. These perspectives highlight how Black placemaking nurtures identity and community through acts of resilience and reimagination.

Villanueva (2024) introduces the concept of "Black radical placemaking" where aesthetics and activism intersect to confront racialized exclusion and inequities in traditional urban planning directly. Using George Floyd Square, Villanueva emphasizes how Black radical placemaking serves as a site for remembrance and a platform for reimagining justice with mutual aid initiatives to meet community needs. In contrast to market-driven urban development, Black radical placemaking prioritizes reparative justice and the creation of inclusive, equitable public spaces that amplify marginalized voices.

Black placemaking, whether through cultural celebration, boundary redefinition, or radical activism, transforms spaces into symbols of resilience, justice, and collective hope. It also advocates for a more equitable urban landscape where Black histories, experiences, and identities are central to shaping public spaces. For Hogan's Alley, these frameworks provide a foundation for reimagining the block and inspiring a "new form of human relatedness" (Carter, 2014). They also highlight key priorities for advancing Black placemaking:

**Preserving Memory  
and Collective Healing**

**Community Building  
by addressing current  
community needs**

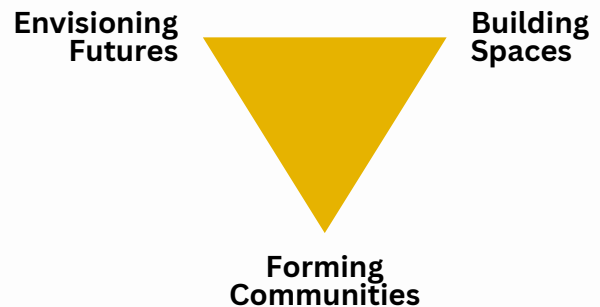
**Future Growth**

## Cultural Futurism & Afrofuturism

**Cultural futurism** is an interdisciplinary approach that explores the role of culture in shaping future societies. It is based on the idea that imagination is a powerful tool for constructing inclusive, equitable, and sustainable futures (Edmonds et al., 2024). Cultural futurism involves using various creative mediums—such as art, music, literature, film, and technology—to challenge existing paradigms and create new possibilities that are more inclusive, sustainable, and culturally responsive (Edmonds et al., 2024; Baumann, 2018).

At its core, cultural futurism focuses on creating environments that support collective imagination and speculative thinking about the future. This process is participatory and inclusive, ensuring that marginalized communities have a central role in shaping the outcomes (Edmonds et al., 2024). A broader framework for understanding these processes is *Infrastructures of the Imagination*, a concept that can be used to break down processes that either (a) imagine and create new built environments and techno-systems, or (b) develop methods and spaces for increasing public participation in creative, political, and design-oriented processes (Baumann, 2018). By focusing on these aspects, *Infrastructures of the Imagination* empowers individuals and communities to take an active role in shaping the future. Baumann (2018) outlines three key dimensions of infrastructures of the imagination that guide this process: envisioning futures, building spaces, and forming communities. The first dimension, "envisioning futures" involves exploring speculative ideas and creative possibilities that challenge conventional thinking. The second, "building spaces" transforms these imagined futures into tangible environments, considering how urban spaces and social structures can reflect collective aspirations.

Finally, "forming communities" emphasizes the importance of collaboration and collective action, ensuring that the futures we create are grounded in diverse cultural contexts and shared values.



The three key dimensions of infrastructure of the imagination (Baumann, 2018).

**Afrofuturism**, a key facet of culture futurism, is a movement that reimagines the future from the perspectives of the African diaspora. The term "Afrofuturism" was first coined by the American writer Mark Dery in his 1994 essay "Black to the Future," where he described speculative fiction that incorporates African American themes and concerns, particularly in the context of technological and cultural change (Dery, 1994). Afrofuturism blends science fiction, fantasy, history, technology, and African traditions to create new narratives that center Black identity and experience. Despite its roots in fiction, Afrofuturism is rooted in reality and possibility. It empowers Black people to envision alternative futures where they are at the forefront of technological, social, and political change. Afrofuturism also serves as a form of resistance against stereotypes and the erasure of Black histories, offering a space where Black individuals can imagine themselves as central figures in a future of their own making (Phillips, 2022).



Afrofuturism fights against the colonial "norms" ingrained in society—such as systemic racism, cultural erasure, and economic marginalization—that have historically excluded Black people from narratives of progress and power. These entrenched structures, shaped by colonial histories, often position Black people and their cultures as peripheral or subordinate (Banaji and Fiske, 2021). By imagining a future where Black people are not only survivors of oppression but also architects of their own destinies, Afrofuturism reclaims space, identity, and history. It challenges the dominance of colonial legacies and reimagines the world in ways that center Black perspectives, pushing back against the systems that have long sought to limit their potential (Banaji and Fiske, 2021; Phillips, 2022).

The work being done in Vancouver's Hogan's Alley is an example of Afrofuturism in action. The neighborhood is being reimagined to honor the history of Black Vancouverites, while envisioning a future where Black culture is centred, celebrated, and a prominent part of the city's cultural fabric. Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) led efforts to establish a Community Land Trust, which will include a Black cultural centre, affordable housing, and spaces for local businesses. These projects use the past as a foundation to create a more inclusive and dynamic future. Public art like the 'Hope Through Ashes' mural (Joseph, 2020) are helping to reclaim the space and elevate Black cultural narratives. This transformation reflects Afrofuturism's core principles of reclaiming time, space, and identity, while challenging colonial legacies and norms (Phillips, 2022).



*Pictured above: Black Sun Comics, founded in 2016 by Canadian creator Kelvin Nyeusi-Mawazo, is an example of Afrofuturism showcasing Black leading characters and futuristic storytelling.*

*Pictured Right: Black Sun Comics attending 'Cosmic Northside: The Afrofuturistic Canadian Arts Conference' in Ottawa on October 18-20, 2024 (photo credit: David D. Pistol).*



Actions for Placemaking

# Engagement Principles





# Engagement Principles

Engagement principles are important to ensure that decision-making processes reflect the interests, priorities, and lived experiences of communities. They guide the planning and implementation of meaningful, intentional, and equitable participation (IAP2, n.d). For Black communities in Metro Vancouver, these principles are essential in addressing historical racism, displacement, and exclusion from past community engagement. They help rebuild trust by promoting inclusivity and transparent participation and providing a framework for ongoing accountability and self-determination. Effective engagement is also tied to placemaking, which creates safe and welcoming spaces that empower communities and reinforce the need for community-centered principles (Douglas, 2024).

The proposed engagement principles were developed through a comprehensive process, including a literature review on Black placemaking, case studies on Black and other marginalized communities, an analysis of past engagement with Black communities in Metro Vancouver, and a workshop with Hogan's Alley Society (HAS).

## Engagement Principles for Black Communities: A Workshop with HAS

The SCARP Studio team facilitated a workshop on March 19, 2025, to review and refine the proposed engagement principles and ensure they align with the priorities of Black communities and the values of Hogan's Alley Society (HAS). The discussion focused on how these principles can be integrated into HAS' work and identified areas for improvement.

### Participants:

#### Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) Team

- Djaka Blais: Executive Director
- Aisha Ismail: Executive Assistant
- Siobhan Barker: Community Care Director
- Udokam Iroegbu: Director of Strategic Projects
- Shayla Bird: Community Specialist
- Miselta Ihekwoba: Community Engagement Coordinator
- Tolu Osunkoya: Communications Coordinator
- Jahmira Lovemore: Community Care; Housing & Cultural Support worker
- Daniel Mitte Benon: Community Care; Housing & Cultural Support worker

#### SCARP Studio Team

- Benita Ikirezi
- Landon Reeves
- Tabitha Kennedy

The workshop began with a discussion focused on three key questions: *What specific outcomes do you hope these principles will achieve for HAS? How do you see these principles shaping your engagement with the Black communities? How will you integrate these principles into your daily operations, programs, and advocacy efforts?* The HAS team shared that these principles will help expand engagement by a wider range of Black voices, particularly those often left out, such as newer immigrants, Afro-Caribbeans, youth, Indigenous organizations, young mothers, and people experiencing homelessness. They emphasized providing childcare and creating stigma-free, safe spaces to build trust and encourage participation. For HAS, These principles are essential for guiding and improving their engagement strategies and ensuring that their events are inclusive rather than extractive. Lastly, they will inform HAS outreach, partnerships, and program design and allow them to create meaningful and equitable opportunities for participation.

In the second half of the workshop, the group reviewed the proposed engagement principles and evaluated how they aligned with HAS values. HAS team emphasized the need for clearer definitions of terms like “equity,” “inclusion,” and “accessibility” to avoid confusion. They suggested that the principle of “Advance Equity” should specifically identify equity-seeking groups and explain the importance of prioritizing equity. The HAS team recommended using “Black communities” (plural) to reflect the diversity and expanding the principle of “Protect Rights and Privacy”. They also suggested adding a principle for public reporting to ensure accountability and trust, with updates shared through the HAS newsletter or social media. Other suggestions included centering Black voices while still allowing space for other perspectives, accommodating various abilities and communication preferences, and promoting events through different channels to reach underserved areas like Surrey and Langley.

## Next Steps

Following the workshop, the engagement principles were revised to be clearer, more inclusive, and actionable, with two additional principles bringing the total to eight. We recommend that HAS review the updated principles and begin the internal approval process, including Board review.

To ensure effective implementation, we recommend that HAS develops a system for tracking the principles in practice, including a reflection tool for staff and volunteers and a feedback mechanism for community members. It is also important to establish clear ethical guidelines to protect the rights and privacy of community members, and HAS can explore resources from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Canada, which provides training and tools for effective public engagement (IAP2 Canada, n.d).

These principles will provide a strong foundation for meaningful and equitable participation and help build trust with Black communities.



2025 Sankofa Celebration. Retrieved from Hogan's Alley Society Instagram Page (Photo credit: J I M P I N U).



## Proposed Engagement Principles

### **Acknowledge Historical and Cultural Context**

We must begin by recognizing the historical injustices and systemic barriers faced by Black communities, including the impacts of colonialism, slavery, urban renewal, and ongoing racial discrimination. We must also honor the diverse cultural identities within Black communities, acknowledging differences in diaspora, heritage, and lived experiences.

### **Center Black Voices and Leadership**

Engagement efforts must prioritize Black voices and leadership at every stage. By creating space for Black people to lead and influence decisions, we ensure that their lived experiences and expertise shape the process and respect their contributions.

### **Engage with Purpose and Transparency**

Engagement requires clarity and openness. We must clearly define the objectives of each engagement activity and ensure that community members understand how their input will influence outcomes.

### **Build Trust Through Mutual Respect**

We must create an environment where Black communities and other marginalized groups feel safe, respected, and valued. This involves listening actively and ensuring that engagement is rooted in mutual respect, with a commitment to establishing and maintaining meaningful and lasting relationships.

### **Ensure Inclusive and Accessible Participation**

Engagement must be designed to accommodate the varying needs of community members. This involves offering multiple venues for participation, in-person, virtually, written feedback, or one-on-one discussions, and providing additional support like childcare, transportation, and language assistance. We must proactively engage with underrepresented groups like new Black immigrants, youth, seniors, and those living in suburban areas, to ensure broad participation.

### **Advance Equity**

Equity is a commitment to actively dismantle the barriers that have historically excluded certain groups (Indigenous, Black, other people of color, women, children, seniors). We must collaborate with Black communities as equal partners to co-create solutions that address their specific needs. This requires defining equity and taking steps to address structural inequalities, ensuring that Black communities are at the center of decision-making and that their interests are prioritized.

### **Commit to Long-Term Accountability and Feedback Loops**

Engagement is an ongoing process, and we must establish feedback loops to build trust and demonstrate accountability. This involves regularly following up with the Black communities, through meetings, newsletters, or other channels to ensure participants remain informed and involved in the process. Additionally, we must set up channels for community oversight to empower participants to provide ongoing input on the decision-making processes.

### **Protect Rights and Privacy**

We must honor the rights and privacy of all Black community members. This involves following strict ethical standards to ensure that data is handled with care and respect, obtaining consent for any data collection, and developing frameworks to safeguard the identities and privacy of all participants.

Actions for Placemaking

# Community Mapping





# Community Mapping

Inspired by planning work in Toronto's Little Jamaica, we began mapping community infrastructure mapping project documents Black, Indigenous, immigrant service, and housing initiatives in the Metro Vancouver area. We aim to identify organizations, projects, and advocacy efforts whose work aligns with HAS goals. The result of this research is a set of one-pagers that describe the work of 25 different advocacy organizations within Metro Vancouver (see Appendix B).

Non-profits often have ambitious goals, but are “overwhelmed, stretched, [and] underfunded” (Vantage Point, 2024). This creates an environment of many organizations working in the same space, but with their own mandate and limited visibility to the actions of other organizations. As a result, there is an increased risk that multiple groups are working to solve the same issue in similar ways on their own, duplicating work when they could be working together. The objective of this action is to promote awareness, develop relationships, and create opportunities for collaboration between kindred organizations.

In discussions with HAS, we identified a specific interest in organization types. The HAS leadership is well-connected to many of the major Black-led non-profits in Vancouver. Building a stronger relationship with Indigenous organizations in Strathcona is a goal of HAS. HAS is already an operator of 1 supportive housing building, and are looking to expand their role as a housing operator, so connecting with other affordable housing providers is valuable.

We also discussed the core needs of Black immigrants to Metro Vancouver. As a demographic they have student status, immigration, housing, and employment as top issues, and aren't as connected to the Black history of Vancouver. So we researched local immigrant services societies, and learned that they have a high proportion of Black clients.

Through documenting existing efforts of cultural preservation, community development, and advocacy, we aim to create a comprehensive resource that helps to strengthen connections between organizations with shared interests. In particular, we want to identify Indigenous organizations operating in Strathcona, and immigrant services organizations that work with Black immigrants. By highlighting potential synergies and reducing duplication of efforts, we hope this can enhance the collective impact of HAS and other organizations advancing Black and Indigenous communities in Vancouver.

This action targets several interconnected challenges and opportunities

## Challenges and Opportunities

**Fragmentation of Grassroots Initiatives:** Many Black and Indigenous-led organizations work toward similar goals but often operate in silos, limiting collaboration.

**Lack of Visibility:** Organizations may be unaware of parallel efforts in cultural heritage, housing, food security, and urban planning, reducing potential synergies.

**Strengthening Networks:** Mapping initiatives allows organizations to identify potential collaborators and build stronger community connections.

**Enhancing Coordination:** A centralized resource of active initiatives can help reduce redundancy and encourage complementary efforts.

Actions for Placemaking

# Housing Engagement



# Let's Talk Housing

## A Black Community Conversation on Housing

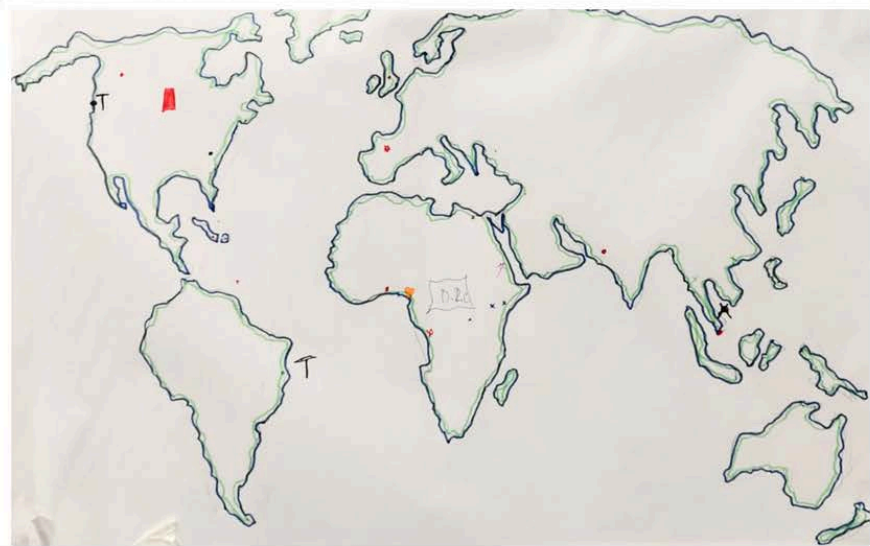
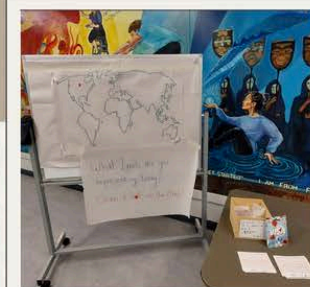
"Let's Talk Housing: A Black Community Conversation" was a community event that took place on February 6, 2025, in Edmonds, Burnaby. It was organized by Alegría Soy, a grassroots non-profit organization in Edmonds, Burnaby, in partnership with Hogan's Alley Society. The event focused on displacement and strategies to protect Edmonds and British Columbia Black neighborhoods. It was an opportunity for residents to discuss housing challenges and explore solutions for more inclusive and secure communities.

### Welcome & Community Engagement Activity

The event opened with an interactive activity, "What Lands Are You Representing Today?", to visualize the diversity within the community and gather data for future conversations and decision-making. Participants were asked to mark their countries of origin on a world map and complete a raffle entry form identifying their neighborhood or city within Metro Vancouver (Figure 1). 17 countries across six continents were represented, and 18 attendees completed the raffle form, with 50% residing in Burnaby (Figure 2).

#### Ethnic backgrounds represented at 'Let's Talk Housing' event:

Belgium	Rwanda
Cameroon	Singapore
Canada	Thailand
• Vancouver, BC	Trinidad and Tobago
• Burnaby, BC	United Kingdom
• Edmonton, AB	USA
Dominican Republic	• Washington, DC
Ethiopia	• Maine
Jamaica	• Atlanta
Japan	• Florida
Kenya	Vietnam
Nigeria	
Philippines	



#### Community feedback - Ideas for future events:

Community cookout

Music festival

Film screenings

Open dialogue events

Wine night



**Figure 1.** Participant demographics and feedback on ideas for future community events, collected during SCARP student-led engagement activity at Byrne Creek Community School (Edmonds, Burnaby).



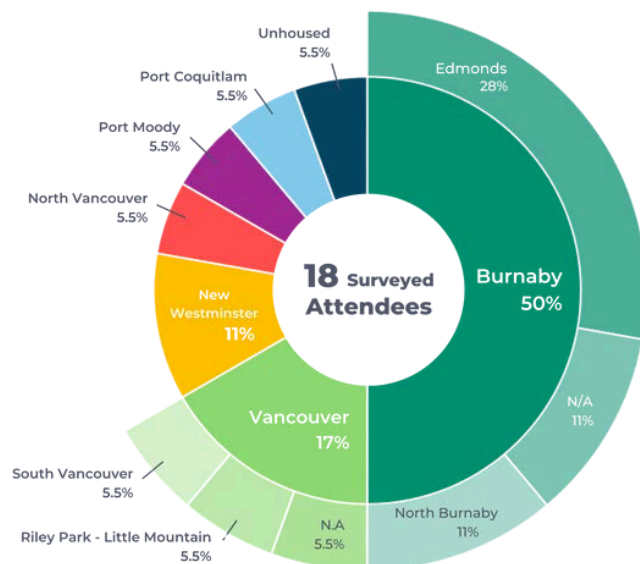
As part of the activity, participants were asked about their preferences for future engagement, including the types of events, workshops, and initiatives they would like to attend or participate in. Many participants expressed interest in outdoor community events with music, food, and social activities such as cookouts, wine nights, and music festivals (Figure 1). One participant emphasized the importance of making HAS feel more like a home than an institution, creating a welcoming space for Black communities.

## Film Screening and Community Conversation

The event focused on the question: “What solutions already exist to address these disparities, and how can we mobilize to ensure Black communities have access to housing?” It featured screenings of *The Invisibles*, a film on Toronto’s homelessness crisis followed by a discussion with director Noah Maks, and *Africville Meets Hogan’s Alley*, which explored the displacement of Black communities in both cities.

The last part of the event was the community conversation, where community members were divided into small groups to discuss their housing challenges and brainstorm potential solutions. Some of the barriers highlighted include lack of access to information, affordability issues, credit challenges for newcomers, and the impact of gentrification (new developments often prioritize condos over rental units). Community members also talked about the gaps in policies where government programs often favor homeownership over rental housing and the need to redefine the term “affordability” to reflect actual community needs.

Beyond identifying challenges, community members explored some actions and solutions. They emphasized the need for policy changes that prioritize rental housing and community spaces. While some successful community-driven initiatives exist, they remain small-scale compared to the broader housing crisis. Participants also stressed the importance of sustaining engagement beyond the event through continued discussions, future gatherings, and greater involvement from developers and politicians in these conversations.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of ‘Let’s Talk Housing’ event attendees place of residence in Metro Vancouver.

Recommendations  
for Placemaking

# Black Co- Governance of Parks



# Black Co-Governance of Parks

Forming community goes beyond the provision of housing and employment – it is a social practice of sharing space and time together that allows connections to be formed. Public parks are a foundational piece of this social practice. Parks provide a space for people to gather for recreation, cultural celebration, childcare, and political action. When Vancouver demolished Hogan's Alley, the displacement of Black families from their housing was also a displacement of Black families from their public spaces. As HAS plans for a new Black hub in Vancouver, part of that work will be to include Black people in parks as well.

## Where should these Black-inclusive parks be within the urban fabric?

The Community Land Trust has finite land and will likely build housing and employment space in all of it in order to achieve its goals to provide as much affordable housing and jobs as possible. Black people have historically been left out of positions of power in Vancouver, why should the community have to give up power as soon as it has begun to build power? So we look outwards in the Strathcona neighbourhood for opportunities, and we consider a new paradigm – Black co-governance of parks as an assertion of the rights for Black people in public spaces.

There is a recent phenomenon in British Columbia of governments working towards acknowledging Indigenous rights and title to the land which was stolen from them. Part of this acknowledgement has been formalized into agreements where the provincial and federal governments agree to jointly manage parks with local Nations, so Indigenous people can steward the lands as they see fit. Two Indigenous governments pioneered this approach simultaneously in 1995, with two different Canadian governments. Lytton First Nation signed agreements with the provincial government to create the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park near Lytton, where the

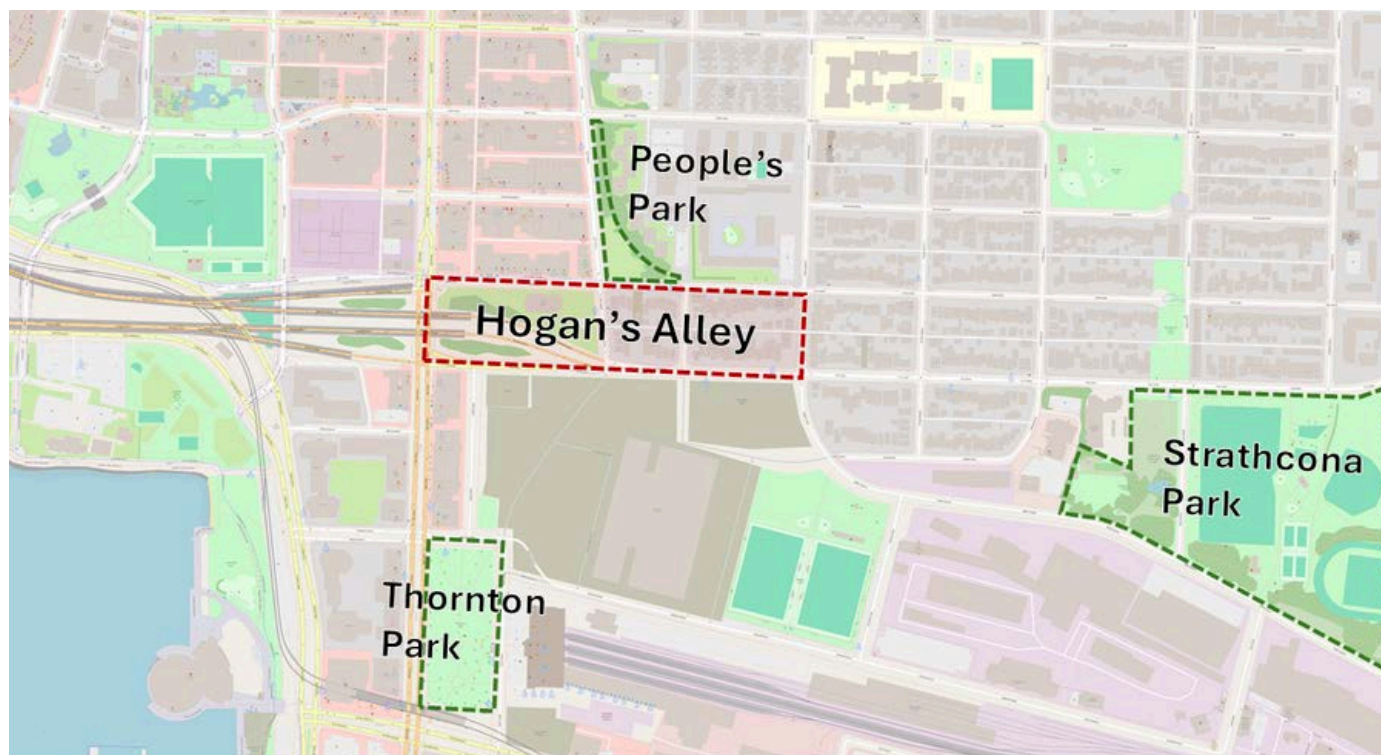
Thompson and Fraser Rivers meet in southern BC. Nuuchaltn First Nations made agreements with the federal government to co-govern the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, which spans from Tofino to Port Renfrew on Vancouver Island's western coast.

The idea of Black co-governance of parks is an extension of this concept, however there are very important differences that must be acknowledged. Indigenous peoples have stewarded the lands in this region since time immemorial, and Vancouver is situated on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations – collectively MST. The inherent rights and title to these lands are held by these Nations due to this relationship, and these rights and title are legally recognized by the governments and judiciaries.

Any new control of land in Vancouver must respect these Indigenous rights and title as having primacy – any Black co-governance model is secondary. HAS must develop a strong relationship with the MST governments to achieve the acceptance and success of a Black co-governance agreement.

With this understanding, the principles of co-governance follow a similar logic in both cases. The Lytton First Nation and Nuuchaltn First Nations agreements formalize rights and responsibilities for traditional territory, self-governance, respect, land stewardship, language and place names, ecological preservation, traditional cultural practices, renewable resource harvesting, tourism, and economic development (Agreement Between Canada and Maa-nulth First Nations of Pacific Rim Concerning Cooperation in the Planning and Management of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, 2006; BC Parks, 2000; Orozco-Quintero, A., King, L., & Canessa, R. (2020). These mirror the themes we've heard in discussion with Hogan's Alley Society this year about the vision for the future Black cultural hub, so we see an opportunity to expand on this work.





**Figure 3.** Map of parks and greenspaces surrounding Hogan's Alley

If we seek to create an agreement for Black co-governance of parks, we must consider what geography that agreement applies to, and where there are opportunities.

There is an abundance of park space within 300m of the Georgia Viaducts (Figure 3). When visiting the neighbourhood, we observed trends of some parks being less used and less maintained than others. Creekside and Concord Community Parks are well used by people walking the Seawall and looking for recreation space. Both parks have had recent investments. Creekside Park's playground was built in 2017 and is very popular with children. Concord Community Park finished construction in 2018 and is filled with adults lounging on the grass or playing badminton. This park is also a privately owned public space.

Andy Livingstone is a large park, with constantly busy soccer fields and a large play area used by students from Crosstown ʃxʷwəḡwəθət Elementary School. Trillium Park was built in 2010 and is also a popular field for soccer teams. With its location beside the new St. Paul's Hospital, we expect this park to be in high demand. Maclean Park is a staple of the residential part of Strathcona, where locals relax under the shade of trees and children play in the spray park.

Underneath the western portion of the Georgia Viaducts is the Plaza Skatepark, a tremendously popular spot for skateboarders of all ages because skateparks are such a rare recreation amenity in the city. The future of this park is unknown due to the viaducts demolition.

The parks listed above are quite new or have recent capital investments, are well programmed, and are heavily used, making them unlikely candidates for the Vancouver Park Board to co-govern with Hogan's Alley Society. But there are 3 under-invested parks where we see opportunity. The less used areas are Strathcona Park, Thornton Park, and an informal triangular grass field claimed by the neighbourhood as People's Park.

Strathcona Park is underused by virtue of its size – programmed areas like the running track and community garden are used, but the wide grass fields appear to be empty most days and the gravel soccer pitch is unpopular with other new soccer pitches nearby. There are large underused areas of the park that could benefit from stewardship and new ideas. Considering Strathcona Park is the largest nearby park, it is feasible that the Park Board would be open to some new Afro-centric park uses.

Thornton Park has a mature tree canopy, walking paths, and a seating area, without having formal programming. It hosts unhoused people sleeping outside, and some elderly people sitting on the benches to feed geese. A few times a year this park is used for large events, such as the 420 celebration. Thornton Park has the same issue as Strathcona Park where a lack of programming makes the park unattractive for many users when other parks nearby have better amenities. Notably this park is directly beside the Main St–Science World Skytrain Station, an important access point for people going to and from Hogan’s Alley, and the future location of St. Paul’s Hospital, so there will likely be pressure to change how this park is used.

People’s Park at 722 Gore Avenue was the site of a proposed temporary firehall. This development proposal was rebuked in 2024 by the community, who were concerned about the loss of public green space. The successful opposition to this firehall revealed that 722 Gore Avenue was functioning as a park despite the lack of official designation, as a favoured spot for people to walk their dogs. It has been unofficially named People’s Park by the community, and the City is conducting some planning work on this site. These three parks are the best opportunities for HAS, and People’s Park is particularly well-suited given it borders the Hogan’s Alley Block.

What would next steps look like? While the key negotiation point is with the Vancouver Park Board, but the MST Nations should be approached first. Given the deep roots of the Indigenous, Chinese, and Japanese communities in Strathcona, we envision all groups coming together, and then each community creating a co-governance agreement for a local park of their choice. We note that the municipal government began the process of dissolving the Park Board in 2024 - in that case the negotiations would shift to a City of Vancouver parks department.

We envision a park centred on music and food. Picnic benches with a rain cover could host community picnics. A bandstand like the one in Alexandra Park could be a gathering place for small performances or jam sessions with local musicians, a return of the musical traditions at Vie’s Chicken and Steak House.

This placemaking approach involves creating collaborative governance structures where Black community members and organizations can actively participate in the planning, programming, and management of an urban green space to ensure it meets the community’s needs. We draw inspiration from existing Indigenous co-management agreements for parks.

The objective of this approach is to create inclusive, community-led models for the stewardship of urban green spaces through the centring of the priorities of Black voices and organizations. Co-governance seeks to restore historically Black cultural spaces by ensuring their design, programming, and management reflect the community’s unique cultural history and needs. By building collaborative governance structures, Black co-governance of parks seeks to challenge systemic barriers to Black participation in urban planning and public space management, while building a sustainable foundation for long-term community empowerment and care.

## Challenges and Opportunities

**Systemic Exclusion:** the displacement of the Black community erased a vital cultural and social hub. Park co-governance seeks to address the lasting impacts of systemic exclusion from the urban planning process.

**Rebuilding Community Through Cultural Celebration:** by revitalizing this space, this initiative creates opportunities to celebrate and sustain Black culture, history, and community connections.

**Underrepresentation in Public Space Governance:** Black communities have historically been excluded from decision-making processes related to public space design and management, resulting in a lack of spaces that reflect their cultural heritage and priorities.



Recommendations  
for Placemaking

# Digital Storytelling

*Pictured: Shayla Bird hosting a walking tour of Hogan's Alley in Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood (photo credit: Gilbert Murere).*



# Digital Storytelling

This project aims to equip Black youth with the skills to understand and document the histories and experiences of their community in short-form digital media. Short-form digital media such as TikTok is the next evolution of storytelling. The added benefit is the accessibility of the tool - digital storytelling can be widely distributed and participation is asynchronous. This allows Black storytelling to reach farther, be more convenient, and therefore draw more people in. It may encourage more youth to become storytellers, and it continues this important anti-oppression tool.

HAS can connect Black youth with Black knowledge keepers, providing an opportunity to create TikToks that celebrate the history, culture, and resilience of Hogan's Alley. Through the TikTok medium, the project aims to engage younger generations in preserving and sharing the stories of Hogan's Alley in a format that resonates with their everyday experiences, while amplifying these stories to a wider audience.



This project was proposed to address several interconnected challenges and opportunities:

## Challenges and Opportunities

**Cultural Preservation:** the area holds deep historical significance as a vibrant hub for Black communities. The attempted erasure of this neighbourhood has made preserving and sharing these stories more difficult. By engaging youth and knowledge keepers, this project seeks to preserve this important cultural heritage.

**Youth Engagement:** Black youth in Metro Vancouver often face a lack of opportunities to connect with their cultural history and community elders. TikTok provides a unique and accessible space to allow these connections to flourish through creative expression.

**Amplification of Marginalized Voices:** this intervention leverages social media's reach to amplify the voices of Black knowledge keepers. The project aims to provide a platform for the Black community to challenge historical erasure and celebrate their resilience.

**Community Building:** the collaboration between youth and knowledge keepers encourages intergenerational dialogue, strengthens community bonds, and creates a space for shared storytelling and learning.



This project recognizes both the need to preserve cultural history and the opportunity to do so in a way that meets the needs of younger generations while uplifting the voices of Black community members.

While a full-scale digital storytelling project was not feasible due to project constraints, we decided to look at some of the existing social media content that is already being created and shared around the topic to see if it could inform any future creations. For example, one creator by the name of Autumn, who works as a youth outreach worker at Parkgate Society, shared some of the important community history she learned during a tour of Hogan's Alley. The [video](#) serves as an example of the kinds of stories that could be captured and shared through a more comprehensive digital storytelling initiative in the future.

It is also important to acknowledge that, within BC, there are other marginalized communities that are doing important work using digital mediums to tell their stories. Tsleil-Waututh Nation and other First Nations have been using interactive story maps to communicate important information to the public and other key stakeholders (Tsleil-Waututh Nation, n.d.). These story maps use a combination of videos, voice recordings, art, scientific diagrams, writing, and photos to communicate important information in a persuasive and easily understandable manner. While the histories of oppression are different, there is still potential for marginalized communities to learn from each other and work together in solidarity to create positive outcomes for all.



*Pictured: Shayla Bird hosting a walking tour of Hogan's Alley in Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood (photo credit: Gilbert Murere).*

# Conclusion

The vision for Hogan's Alley is rooted in Black placemaking, an ongoing, community-driven process that reclaims space through agency, resilience, and cultural expression (Carter, 2014). This report outlines an engagement framework, informed by historical context, case studies, and community-led strategies, to support the reclamation of Hogan's Alley as a thriving Black cultural hub in Metro Vancouver.

Our goal was to explore how Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) can build community and preserve cultural heritage through community-led placemaking. By analyzing past engagement efforts, we developed engagement principles to ensure the interests and concerns of Black people are prioritized in decision-making. In collaboration with HAS and Alegría Soy, we conducted an engagement activity to capture the diversity within the community and their vision for future engagement. A key takeaway was the desire to transform HAS into a home rather than an institution. Additionally, we created a community map identifying potential partners whose work aligns with HAS' mission.

**We recommended future engagement activities that can unite the Black communities and preserve the memory of Hogan's Alley. One example is the Black co-governance of parks which prioritizes Black leadership in managing urban green spaces and ensuring they reflect the community's history, identity, and needs.**

Our project envisioned Hogan's Alley as more than a place, but an enduring representation of Black unity, creativity, and self-determination inspired by global Black-led communities.



*(Image credit: Hogan's Alley Society)*



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# Appendix A : Case Studies



# District Six, Cape Town

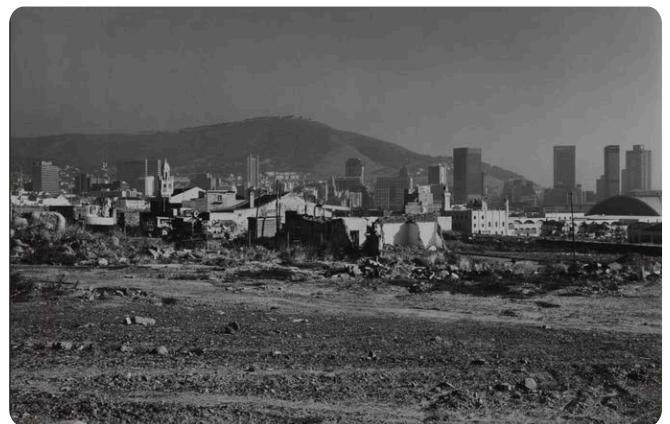
## Background

District Six was originally established as Cape Town's Sixth Municipal District in 1867. It was a thriving, multi-ethnic community known for its rich cultural life and vibrant businesses. However, it became a symbol of apartheid-era forced displacement when over 60,000 residents were evicted under the Group Areas Act of 1950 (District Six Museum, n.d.). Residents' homes were demolished, and the community scattered to segregated townships. This was the second forced removal from District Six, following the displacement of Black residents in 1901 (Soudien, 2019).

Since the late 1980s, former residents of District Six, led by the Hands Off District Six Committee, have been actively advocating for the return of displaced families to the area. In 1989, they established the District Six Museum Foundation, which has become an important space for preserving the community's history and facilitating dialogue between former residents and newer generations (Beinart, 2024). Following the end of apartheid in 1991, the museum collaborated with former residents and artists to create temporary exhibitions at various sites around Cape Town such as the 1997 Sculpture Festival (Beinart, 2024). This festival was held on the grounds of District Six and featured over fifty artists. It aimed to establish District Six as a heritage site and emphasize the role of the community in creating history and reclaiming public space. It also encouraged former residents to grieve and reconnect with their land through interactive sculptures that blended personal stories and artistic expression to honor those displaced from the area (District Six, n.d.). Through storytelling, exhibitions, and artifacts, the museum continues to rebuild a sense of identity and provides a platform for healing for displaced residents, their descendants, and the broader community (Beinart, 2024).

Post-apartheid, both local and national governments led the redevelopment, focusing on land restitution and community rebuilding. By 2021, 2,760 claims had been filed, with 1,449 settling for financial compensation and 1,201 for redevelopment. By 2018, 139 claimants had received new housing as part of the completed phases 1 and 2 of the District Six redevelopment (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2021). While there were challenges resettling claimants into housing built during phase 3, phases 4 through 6 are now underway (Payne, 2022). Additionally, District Six has slowly transformed into a vibrant hub for arts and design, with institutions like the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, street art, and cultural landmarks such as the Fugard Theatre (Carstens, 2018).

While both District Six and Hogan's Alley share a history of displacement and systematic discrimination, the redevelopment efforts are happening within distinct political contexts and frameworks. Nevertheless, District Six offers valuable lessons on engaging trauma-affected communities in redevelopment efforts. It also highlights the importance of creating physical spaces for gathering and balancing memory, healing, and future development in these efforts.



David Goldblatt. (1982). *The Destruction of District Six under the Group Areas Act. Cape Town, Cape. 5 May 1982.* TATE.



## Community Engagement: Large-Scale Development

The District Six Development Framework was commissioned by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and released in March 2012. The framework aimed to restore justice for those displaced from District Six by creating a vibrant, multicultural community that preserves its historical legacy and addresses the social and economic needs of claimants and the wider public. Initial engagement with claimants and other interested parties began in 2006 and concluded in February 2012. The final draft of the framework included a participation public report summarizing the engagement sessions conducted between December 2011 and February 2012. Although the framework has since been updated, the information gathered in its engagement process has served as a foundational reference for subsequent planning initiatives in District Six (City of Cape Town, 2023).

The community engagement was conducted by Bergstan South Africa, a consulting firm, with support from the District Six Beneficiary Trust, NM & Associates Planners and Designers, and Lucien Le Grange Architects and Planners. The engagement process involved a diverse group of stakeholders, including claimants, local community members, and government representatives.

The draft framework was presented during an open house held at a high school in District Six, an accessible location for resettled claimants and the local community. The open house was held for five days in December and an additional 20 days between January and February 2012. It featured 13 exhibition boards and a PowerPoint presentation, and the consulting team members were available to answer questions and gather feedback. Invitations were distributed through multiple channels, including mail, email, local media, and notices on the District Six website to ensure broad participation.

The engagement process was also flexible and allowed for open hours and deadlines to be extended and accommodate more participants. Lastly, all materials were made available online, allowing the broader community to access and provide input on the proposals (City of Cape Town, 2023).

Attendees raised concerns about communication issues, such as a last-minute venue change and the feasibility of the proposed plans. They also critiqued the short consultation period and the open house format, suggesting more interactive public meetings. Despite these concerns, the engagement succeeded in attracting significant community interest, with an estimated 200–300 visitors attending the open house daily in December 2011 and overall 657 individuals signing the attendee list. While the report did not indicate the engagement principles that guided the process, it highlights the efforts made to reach the broader community with various communication methods and a flexible approach (City of Cape Town, 2023). These strategies allowed the consultants to build trust with the community and ensure meaningful participation.



Hirsch, M. (2023). Bo-Kaap residents, who have raised concerns over lack of public participation in the City's Local Spatial Development Framework for their suburb, here participate in a mass boeka (communal dinner) during Ramadan [Photograph]. GroundUp.



## Main Takeaways

The engagement process for the District Six Development Framework highlights the need for effective project management in engaging the community on a large-scale redevelopment project. This process involved multiple organizations working together to manage communication, handle logistics, and maintain flexibility to reach a broader audience.

In District Six, there are four main groups representing the interests of claimants in the redevelopment process: The District Six Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust, The District Six Community Forum, The District Six Reference Group, and The District Six Working Committee. These groups collaborate closely with local and national governments to promote the priorities of the claimants and ensure that development aligns with community needs. These groups played an active role in supporting the consultants in the 2012 District Six Development Framework engagement process, emphasizing the importance of relationship building and capacity development. Their collaborative efforts promoted trust and encouraged meaningful participation from all stakeholders.

In Metro Vancouver, there are multiple organizations dedicated to uplifting and supporting the growth of Black communities. It is important for Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) to build and maintain strong relationships with these groups to ensure a successful redevelopment of Hogan's Alley block.

The District Six case study demonstrates the importance of short-term, creative interventions in building social and community connections, specifically the temporary exhibitions curated by the museum. These initiatives play an important role in preserving cultural heritage and re-establishing a sense of identity in communities impacted by trauma and displacement like Hogan's Alley. They provide a space for collective mourning, reflection, and remembrance, while also encouraging active participation in rebuilding trust and community ties. By using non-conventional approaches to planning, art, and architecture, these interventions spark dialogue, attract diverse visitors, and bring investment into the area. This not only enhances the community's value but also opens doors to new interactions and opportunities (Beinart, 2024).

For Hogan's Alley, temporary actions can serve as powerful tools for community rebuilding and engagement while plans for long-term developments, like a cultural center, are underway.

# Little Jamaica, Toronto

## Background

Toronto has been a focal point for Caribbean immigration to Canada, with Little Jamaica on Eglinton Avenue serving as a cultural center for the community. Toronto's city government recognized Little Jamaica as a cultural district in 2020 and commissioned Jay Pitter Placemaking to do research, mapping, and engagement for future cultural district plans for the area (JP, 2022). Advocacy groups, such as Black Urbanism TO, have also supported these initiatives.

Little Jamaica is a vibrant Black community with a rich cultural history, and planning efforts have been focused on enhancing its visibility and vitality, rather than rebuilding. While this approach contrasts with the displacement and rebuilding challenges faced by Hogan's Alley, many lessons from Little Jamaica offer valuable insights for addressing similar challenges in Vancouver.

### Archival Mapping: Preserving Cultural and Historical Legacy

A key component of the planning process for Little Jamaica involved creating an archival map that captures both the present and historical context of the neighborhood (JP, 2022). This work was informed by the contributions of Black residents and knowledge keepers, whose personal histories have often been overlooked or excluded from conventional archives. By examining historic newspapers and gathering oral histories, the planning team produced a detailed map documenting local businesses, advocacy movements, community leadership, arts and cultural spaces, informal and sacred spaces, transportation access, and affordable housing in the neighborhood (JP, 2022). This comprehensive approach ensures that community assets are acknowledged and incorporated into future planning for the area.

### Infrastructure Challenges: Eglinton Crosstown light rail

While Little Jamaica was not subjected to destructive urban renewal to the extent of Hogan's Alley, the community has faced its own significant challenges.

The construction of the Eglinton Crosstown light-rail, now spanning 14 years, has resulted in the closure of sidewalks, blocked street parking, and drastically reduced foot traffic in the neighbourhood. These disruptions have had a profound impact on local businesses, many of which rely heavily on walk-in customers. Although the light-rail project promises to enhance transit access upon completion, the extended construction timeline has caused significant hardships—a challenge frequently experienced by Black communities across North America during major infrastructure projects (Bessonov, 2020; Brown, 2022).

### Cultural Resilience: Annual Celebrations and Public Art

Despite these disruptions, Little Jamaica continues to thrive culturally. Large annual events like the Junior Carnival Parade and Jamaica Day celebrate Caribbean heritage and strengthen community bonds. Similarly, the weekly Afro-Caribbean Farmers Market held in Reggae Lane provides ongoing opportunities for connection and engagement in the community. Murals painted throughout the area and Reggae Lane visually celebrate the neighborhood's identity and heritage, reinforcing its cultural vibrancy. Reggae Lane as a cultural hub draws meaningful parallels to Hogan's Alley – demonstrating how public space can celebrate Black culture and build community pride.



## Main Takeaways

The success of Little Jamaica as a Black cultural hub has been closely tied to the availability of relatively affordable housing nearby, which enabled a concentration of Black residents to establish and sustain the community.

Similarly, ensuring access to affordable housing will be a critical factor for the long-term success of Hogan's Alley.

Regular cultural events play a pivotal role in shaping and reinforcing communal identity. Large annual celebrations, such as festivals, provide opportunities for collective pride and attract new participants to the community. Smaller, recurring events, like farmers markets, offer consistent opportunities for connection.

Establishing a similar market or other cultural events in Hogan's Alley could help strengthen its identity and engage both residents and visitors.

The construction of the Eglinton Crosstown in Little Jamaica has underscored the difficulties businesses face during long-term infrastructure projects. Even with efforts like subsidies, improved signage, and accessible sidewalks, many businesses have struggled due to decreased foot traffic and limited parking (Bessonov, 2020; Brown, 2022). This situation parallels the challenges experienced by businesses during the Canada Line and Broadway Subway construction projects in Vancouver (Phan Nay, 2024)

For Hogan's Alley, opening new Black-owned businesses before the viaducts are removed and the new road network is established may pose significant risks, particularly for small and newly launched ventures.



*'Reggae Lane', pictured above, is a 1,200 sq ft mural in Toronto's Little Jamaica (1584 Eglinton Ave W) celebrating legendary Toronto reggae musicians including Pluggy Satchmo, Bernie Pitters, and Leroy Sibbles. The mural was created by artist Adrian Hayles in collaboration with STEPS Public Art and The Laneway Project. (Image credit: Destination Toronto).*

# Bronzeville, Chicago

## Background

Bronzeville, located on Chicago's South Side, is a historic district known for its deep-rooted African American heritage, dating back to the early 20th century. Today, the neighborhood celebrates its rich history as a hub for civil rights, jazz, blues, and gospel music, and is home to a vibrant mix of coffee shops, shops, boutiques, bistros, galleries, libraries, monuments, and dining spots.

"Bronzeville" Name Origin: Coined in 1930 by James J. Gentry, referring to the predominantly African American community in the area.

1916: Great Migration brought African Americans from the South to Chicago, drawn by hopes of better jobs and reduced oppression. The reality didn't match the promise - conditions remained harsh, with segregation and limited opportunities. African Americans were confined to the 'Black Belt', an area with rundown, crowded, and overpriced housing owned by white landlords.

From the 1940s to 1960s, high-rise public housing, including the Robert Taylor Homes, were built in Bronzeville by the Chicago Housing Authority. Concentrated poverty and poor design led to severe social issues. The complex was demolished in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Despite these challenges, Bronzeville's residents built a strong, vibrant community with businesses, cultural spaces, and institutions that offered freedom from the racial restrictions common elsewhere in the city.

## Cultural and Community Revitalization

Bronzeville stands as a powerful example of how a community can honor its cultural roots while embracing a vibrant future. The neighborhood's cultural resurgence is reflected in a variety of initiatives that highlight the arts, celebrate African American heritage, and invite active community involvement.

## Little Black Pearl Cultural Arts Center

"We believe that art is an integral part of a healthy community, and its presence creates opportunities for community and economic development" – Little Black Pearl

One of Bronzeville's important community spaces is the Little Black Pearl Cultural Arts Center, a 40,000 sq. ft. facility founded in 1994. It serves as an inclusive hub for the community, offering educational opportunities in visual arts, science, technology, and entrepreneurship education to youth in Bronzeville. The center emphasizes the importance of art as a vehicle for community development, providing a space for artistic expression, innovation, and youth empowerment. Entrepreneurial programs for youth are helping to empower the next generation of leaders, making the Center a core component of the neighborhood's cultural and community fabric.

## Cultural Landmarks and Art Installations

The **Bronzeville Walk of Fame** honors over 100 prominent Black figures such as civil rights activist Ida B. Wells, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, and astronaut Robert H. Lawrence Jr. Murals and sculptures scattered throughout the neighborhood visually reflect the community's identity and help to preserve Bronzeville's cultural legacy.





## The Great Migration Sculpture Garden

Another hallmark of Bronzeville is the Great Migration Sculpture Garden. This public space commemorates the journey of over 1.5 million African Americans who migrated from the South to the North during the early 20th century.

Once a vacant lot across from Gallery Guichard, the space has been transformed into a vibrant gathering space.

- Offers a platform for local artists to showcase their work: e.g., rotating sculpture curated by Gallery Guichard.
- Students from the Illinois Institute for Technology won the 2018 ASLA Honor Award for Student Community Service for the design of the colorful fence that encircles the garden.
- The plantings - primarily native forbs and grasses - create a tranquil environment with gentle, flowing movement, promoting a sense of calm and contributing to community mental well-being.
- A crushed gravel surface at the centre of the garden provides space for outdoor gatherings.

## The Bud Billiken Parade

Held annually since 1929, this is the largest African American parade in the United States. Drawing over a million spectators each year, the parade is a major cultural event that celebrates African American heritage through music, dance, and community involvement. Beyond its festive atmosphere, the parade stands as a powerful symbol of African American resilience and pride, reflecting the enduring spirit of the community. In Bronzeville, it highlights how large-scale cultural events can cultivate a sense of unity and shared celebration.

## Gallery Guichard

Gallery Guichard is a key cultural institution in Bronzeville dedicated to promoting African American art. It serves as a platform for emerging and mid-career Black artists, showcasing their work through fine art exhibitions, experiential events, and art tours. Founded in 2005 by Andre Guichard, Frances Guichard, and Stephen Mitchell, the gallery embodies their mission to connect and elevate artists from across the African diaspora.

*"Art helps people understand each other."  
– Andre & Frances Guichard*

The gallery is located within the Bronzeville Artist Lofts, a live-work community that provides dedicated space for artists to create and collaborate. The building includes 16 artist live-work units, with apartments on the upper floors that double as studios, creating a vibrant community for creatives. The gallery itself occupies 12,200 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, serving as a hub for exhibitions and cultural events. This integrated design has been successful in supporting artistic expression and career development (Gallery Guichard, 2025).

## Community Economy

A cornerstone of Bronzeville's revitalization has been its focus on economic empowerment, particularly through the support of Black-owned businesses. Programs offering grants, mentorship, and storefront subsidies have played a crucial role in this effort. These initiatives have led to the establishment of a diverse array of businesses, including coffee shops, bookstores, performance venues, clothing stores, restaurants, and event spaces (see ['Shop Local Bronzeville' website](#)). By encouraging local entrepreneurship in the area, these programs have not only revitalized the neighborhood's economy but also strengthened community connections and created a sense of shared identity.

## **Mentorship and Financial Support for Black Entrepreneurship**

Mentorship and financial support programs are vital tools for empowering entrepreneurs, driving local economic growth, and revitalizing communities like Bronzeville. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC), administered through Build Bronzeville, demonstrates this approach by providing services such as business advising and financial assistance to Black entrepreneurs and business owners (Build Bronzeville, 2020).

The SBDC is part of a U.S. network funded in part by the federal government through the Small Business Administration (SBA). It collaborates with local universities and economic development organizations to provide free or low-cost business consulting and training. Entrepreneurs can access support in critical areas, including business planning, financial management, and marketing, helping small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs build sustainable ventures (US SBA, 2024).

By connecting entrepreneurs with mentorship, resources, and financial support, programs like SBDC and SBBC help to strengthen local economies, and create opportunities for long-term community success.

## **Community Partnerships**

Partnerships, such as the one between the University of Chicago and the Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC), demonstrate how universities can support neighboring communities through resource-sharing and strategic collaborations in small but impactful ways.

The QCDC, a nonprofit rooted in community advocacy, provides essential support for Black-owned businesses in historically Black neighborhoods like North Kenwood, Oakland, Douglas, and Grand Boulevard on Chicago's South Side (University of Chicago, 2025). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization collaborated with the University of Chicago to offer bridge grants that enabled many Black-owned businesses to endure the economic challenges caused by closures and disruptions.

Beyond financial aid, the University of Chicago contributed to the beautification of local commercial areas by repurposing flower planters originally intended for campus use. This partnership also prioritized skill-building, offering training and technical assistance that helped local entrepreneurs adjust to evolving market demands, such as transitioning to takeout services during the pandemic.

## **Main Takeaways**

While Bronzeville serves as an inspiring example of cultural preservation and community revitalization, it is important to recognize that its success is deeply tied to the presence of a large, active Black population. This difference highlights the challenges HAS may face in adapting Bronzeville's model in Metro Vancouver. However, Bronzeville's strategies still offer valuable lessons that can guide HAS in advancing cultural, economic, and community revitalization efforts.

Bronzeville demonstrates how neighborhood revitalization can effectively preserve cultural heritage while adapting to meet current and future community needs. Equally important is its ability to invite the greater Black diaspora to engage and contribute, creating a sense of belonging and shared growth. The neighborhood's emphasis on elevating and empowering Black-owned businesses, alongside the intentional development of culturally informed public spaces and community events, creates opportunities for cultural exchange and meaningful connections that resonate with both residents and visitors.

Local initiatives, such as the Small Business Development Center at Build Bronzeville and partnerships with the University of Chicago, have been essential in supporting Black-owned businesses. These programs provide mentorship, grants, and technical assistance to help entrepreneurs thrive, especially during challenging times such as pandemics and recessions.

The work of the Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC) has demonstrated the importance of community partnerships between local organizations, universities, and businesses. Resource-sharing partnerships between institutions like UBC and local community groups could similarly benefit Hogan's Alley and promote cultural and economic empowerment.

## Opportunities

Similar to Bronzeville, cultural landmarks and art installations could enhance Hogan's Alley after the viaduct's removal. Local Black artists could be commissioned to create sculptures, murals, and functional art pieces, such as benches. These installations would not only pay homage to the area's history but also serve as a vibrant expression of its cultural identity and a source of inspiration for the broader community.

Establishing gallery spaces that function as both exhibition halls and creative hubs would provide emerging Black artists with opportunities to showcase their work while contributing to the cultural vitality of the neighborhood.

Community partnerships could help community revitalization efforts in Hogan's Alley, Vancouver. Local institutions such as UBC, SFU, and the Emily Carr University of Art + Design could potentially partner with the Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) to provide the following (see on Right).

**Financial and technical support:** Small grants and workshops aimed to help Black-owned small businesses grow and thrive in a competitive market.

**Public space enhancements:** Collaborate with visual arts, urban design, architecture, and urban planning students to provide the Hogan's Alley Block with landscaping materials, public art installations, and culturally relevant designs honoring Vancouver's Black heritage.

**Resource-sharing collaborations:** Leveraging university resources to support community-driven projects in meaningful and sustainable ways.

While this case study offers valuable insights, a key distinction between Hogan's Alley and Bronzeville is the relative presence of a Black resident population. While the findings remain relevant, this difference highlights the challenges faced in Vancouver in effectively engaging and mobilizing the Black community.



# Appendix B: Community Profiles





# MOSAIC

*Settlement and employment services for newcomers*

mosaicbc.org

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Delta, New Westminster (BC)

## PURPOSE

MOSAIC supports immigrants, refugees, and racialized communities in Canada by providing settlement services, employment assistance, and language training. MOSAIC's mission is to advance equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers and empowering newcomers to thrive.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Community-building events.
- Data collection and research.
- Workshops on immigration pathways, refugee sponsorship, and legal rights for Black newcomers.
- Job training programs tailored to Black and newcomer communities.

## CONTACT

David Lee (he/him) - Director of Employment, Language, & Social Enterprise

 [david.lee@mosaicbc.org](mailto:david.lee@mosaicbc.org)

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Immigration advising and refugee sponsorship.
- Housing support.
- English classes, interpretation and translation services, and conversation circles.
- Employment search services, legal information, and workplace rights.
- Health and counselling services, violence prevention and support.
- Research, focused on health services, labour markets, and immigrant settlement.
- Advocacy to federal and provincial governments, healthcare providers.

## OFFICES

5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver  
201-2730 Commercial Dr, Vancouver  
2055 Rosser Ave, Burnaby  
Suite 480 - 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby  
7134 King George Blvd Suite 200, Surrey  
7009 Kingsway, Burnaby  
315-7155 Kingsway, Burnaby  
4899 Delta St - Suite 200, Ladner  
11861 - 88th Avenue - Unit 310, Surrey  
202-17700 56th Avenue, Surrey  
108-1688 152nd Street - Unit 310, White Rock



# AFFILIATION OF MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND SERVICE AGENCIES OF BC (AMSSA)

*Strengthening Diversity in BC*

amssa.org

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Province-wide (BC)

## PURPOSE

AMSSA is BC's province-wide umbrella association with over 90 member organizations who build culturally inclusive communities. AMSSA provides opportunities for its members and others in the settlement and integration community to exchange knowledge, build connections and engage with government with a unified voice.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Jointly create and disseminate resources that support the settlement and integration of newcomers, with a focus on culturally inclusive practices.
- Collaborate on developing and delivering training workshops that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within communities and organizations.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Diversity and Inclusion Training Workshops: Offers training to businesses, institutions, and organizations to understand diversity and inclusion and strategies to address issues of discrimination in the workplace.
- AMSSA Institute: An online learning center that includes training events and resources such as webinars, lectures, and e-learning courses. Topics cover pathways to permanency for temporary residents, refugee mental health, BC employment standards, and racial literacy, supporting members and stakeholders in providing services and programs to their communities.
- Building Capacity to Support BC's Migrant Workers: Provides tools, resources, and training to organizations, employers, and individuals supporting migrant workers. The Migrant Worker Hub enhances knowledge exchange and improves working and living conditions for migrant workers in BC.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [amssa@amssa.org](mailto:amssa@amssa.org)

📞 604-718-2780 or 1-888-355-5560

Metrotower II, Suite 2308, 4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2



# TERRA HOUSING

*Social Purpose Real Estate*

## AREAS OF OPERATION

BC and Canada-wide

## PURPOSE

Established in 1984, Terra specializes in social purpose real estate, assisting organizations in developing, preserving, and optimizing the value of their real estate assets to benefit communities. Their mission focuses on creating affordable, sustainable housing and community spaces that enhance residents' quality of life.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaborate on projects to create affordable housing solutions that cater to the specific needs of Black communities, ensuring cultural relevance and community empowerment.
- Share expertise in property and asset management to maintain and enhance the value of real estate assets owned by HAS, ensuring their long-term sustainability.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- **Development Management:** Provides comprehensive support throughout the development process, from initial concept to project completion, ensuring the creation of affordable housing and community spaces.
- **Asset Management:** Assists clients in maintaining and enhancing the value of their real estate assets, offering strategic planning and management services to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Property Management:** Offers full-service property management, including operations, financial oversight, and maintenance, with a specialization in non-profit housing societies and housing co-operatives.
- **Leasehold Development:** Develops customized affordable housing solutions through innovative leasehold arrangements, making homeownership more accessible.
- **Indigenous Development:** In partnership with Lu'ma Development Management, supports Indigenous communities in developing projects related to social housing, health, education, and economic development.

## CONTACT

✉ [info@terrahousing.ca](mailto:info@terrahousing.ca) ☎ 604 736 8416

2750 Rupert Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3T7

# VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY (VAFCS)

*Assisting Aboriginal peoples transition into the urban Vancouver community*

vafcs.org

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

VAFCS is an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of urban Aboriginal peoples by providing relevant programs and services in health, culture, education, recreation, and many more.

## MISSION

*"To provide practical tools for accomplishing our visionary ends through socio economic programs and services that empowers self reliance, responsibility, success and prosperity for all urban Aboriginal individuals, family and community."*

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Housing and food security
- Violence prevention and legal support for women and LGBTQ12S+
- Youth empowerment and skills development
- Cultural revitalization and community engagement

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Youth Recreation Program.
- Programs for families: Aboriginal Head Start Program (AHS) and HIPPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters).
- programs for youth and students: Employment and Life Skills Training (ELST) and Indigenous Student Bursary Program (ISB).
- Addictions Services Programs: Drop-In Narcotics Anonymous. (NA) and Drop-In Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)).
- Shelter and supportive housing programs.
- Cultural programs: Family Pow Wow Night Program.
- Employment and Training programs.
- Food security programs: Elders' Food and Wellness Program.
- Housing Security programs: Reach Home Program.
- Programs for women and LGBTQ12S+: Vancouver Aboriginal Violence Prevention Program (VAVPP).
- Legal assistance programs.
- Mental health and wellness.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

☎ 1-604-251-4844

1607 E. Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V5L 1P4



# CIRCLE OF EAGLES LODGE SOCIETY (COELS)

*Soaring for 50+ Years*

circleofeagles.com

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

COELS supports Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leaving federal institutions and those dislocated from society to reintegrate into Community by providing respectful wholistic services and culturally safe spaces.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Sharing resources and strategies to enhance pre-employment training and peer support services.
- Creating culturally relevant housing and support services for BIPOC residents.
- Co-organizing community events to promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [admin@circleofeagles.com](mailto:admin@circleofeagles.com) ☎ 604-428-7963 (Head Office)

6520 Salish Drive, Vancouver B.C. V6N 2C7 (Head Office)

2008 Wall Street, Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5 (Pre-Employment Program)

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Naa-Na-Himiyis Brothers Healing Lodge and Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women: facilities offering culturally relevant services for Indigenous peoples including life skills programs, elder counseling and support, personal development, recovery programs, and one-to-one counseling.
- Housing and Services Program (HASP): Assists Indigenous individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in finding and securing housing, offering programs like Rent Smart and outreach services.
- Peer Support: Provides one-on-one emotional and social support through individuals with shared experiences, assisting with harm reduction information, housing needs, job searches, and personal support.
- Pre-Employment Program (PEP): Offers support in job readiness, including resume writing, interview preparation, and skill development to enhance employment opportunities.
- Cultural and Healing Services: Provides access to traditional medicines, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodge ceremonies, spirit baths, and participation in cultural events like West Coast Night and Pow Wow nights to promote cultural connection and healing.



# LU'MA NATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY

*Grounded in the rights of Indigenous Peoples and respect and dignity for all*

lnhs.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Lu'ma Native Housing Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing and culturally appropriate support services for Indigenous individuals and families in Vancouver. Their mission is to alleviate poverty, improve well-being, and support self-determination through housing, healthcare, and community programs. Lu'ma established the Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) as a means to partner with other agencies in the creation of new housing and health services in Vancouver.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Partnering on affordable housing projects that integrate Indigenous and Black cultural perspectives (via Aboriginal Land Trust).
- Expanding access to holistic, community-led health services for BIPOC communities.
- Joint advocacy efforts to influence housing and social policy that address systemic inequities.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Affordable Housing: Over 1,250 units for Indigenous individuals and families, designed to meet cultural and community needs (e.g., Sch'eyk Housing Society operated by Lu'ma).
- Lu'ma Medical Centre: A culturally safe healthcare facility providing primary care, mental health services, and traditional healing.
- Aboriginal Patients' Lodge: Temporary housing and support for Indigenous individuals traveling to Vancouver for medical care.
- Aboriginal Youth Mentorship and Housing Program: Housing and mentorship for youth aging out of kinship arrangements.
- Aboriginal Children's Village: A unique housing project that provides secure, family-oriented housing for Indigenous children in care.
- Community Voice Mail: Free voicemail services for those experiencing homelessness or unstable housing, available through over 140 social service agencies.
- Homelessness Services: Administration of federal funding for Indigenous homelessness initiatives in Metro Vancouver.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [info@lnhs.ca](mailto:info@lnhs.ca) ☎ 604-876-0811

2960 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver, BC V5N 5G3 (Head Office)

2970 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver, BC V5N 5G3 (Medical Centre)

# BC INDIGENOUS HOUSING SOCIETY (BCIHS)

*Indigenous people thriving in culturally safe and inclusive communities*

bcihs.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Province-wide (BC)

## PURPOSE

BCIHS is a non-profit society and registered charity dedicated to providing safe, attainable housing for Indigenous individuals and families. Established in 1984, the society manages over 900 units across 21 buildings, supporting more than 1,300 residents. BCIHS collaborates with federal and provincial agencies to offer affordable housing options that enrich familial and cultural connections.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaborate on developing affordable housing that serves both Indigenous and Black communities, incorporating cultural considerations into housing designs and services.
- Share knowledge and resources to enhance programs addressing family care, health, wellness, and employment for BIPOC community members.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- **Affordable Housing:** BCIHS offers various housing options, including lower-end market, rent-geared-to-income, and supportive housing, prioritizing Indigenous ancestry for certain units. Applicants must meet specific income limits and be at least 19 years old.
- **Tenant Support Services:** The society provides resources and referrals to programs focusing on family care, health and wellness, outreach, education, and employment initiatives to enhance residents' quality of life.
- **Development Initiatives:** BCIHS is committed to expanding its housing portfolio, aiming to build and operate over 3,000 new homes for Indigenous families, and offers childcare programs and tenant support services.
- **Skwachàys Lodge and Residence:** A unique Indigenous social enterprise that combines a hotel (18 guest rooms) with on-site housing and studio space for 24 Indigenous artists. The lodge also features an art gallery showcasing Indigenous artwork.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

 [info@bcihs.ca](mailto:info@bcihs.ca)

548 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2L3

# KILALA LELUM

*Health and Wellness Cooperative*

## AREAS OF OPERATION

DTES, Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Kílala Lelum partners Indigenous Elders with physicians and allied health professionals to provide holistic physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual care to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) community.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaborate on developing healthcare services that integrate cultural practices and address the specific health needs of BIPOC communities.
- Jointly design and implement outreach initiatives to engage marginalized populations and provide accessible health and wellness services.
- Partner to create programs that tackle food insecurity, ensuring community members have access to nutritious meals and education on healthy eating.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- **Primary Care:** Offers team-based, comprehensive, and culturally informed healthcare services, focusing on conditions such as HIV management, opioid agonist therapy (OAT), and chronic diseases like COPD, diabetes, and hepatitis C.
- **Cultural Wellness Programming:** Provides services led by in-house Indigenous Elders, including one-on-one spiritual and cultural guidance and culturally focused community outings.
- **Mobile Outreach Program:** Operates a mobile health clinic offering outreach primary care services to individuals whose healthcare needs have not been met by conventional models.
- **Food Is Medicine & Food Security Program:** Addresses food insecurity by offering daily nutritious meals, serving approximately 750 meals weekly.
- **Education and Training:** Serves as a training site for family practice residents within UBC's Aboriginal Family Practice Residency program and hosts students from various health and social services programs, providing hands-on experience working with members of the Downtown Eastside community.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [info@kilalalelum.ca](mailto:info@kilalalelum.ca) ☎ 604-620-4010

626 Powell Street, Vancouver BC, V6A 1H4

[kilalalelum.ca](http://kilalalelum.ca)





# ENTRE NOUS FEMMES HOUSING SOCIETY

*40 Years of Community, Connection, and Home*

enfhs.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Established over forty years ago by three single mothers seeking affordable housing solutions, ENFHS is a charitable, not-for-profit housing organization that develops and operates affordable housing for women, families, seniors, people with disabilities, and other equity-deserving groups. ENFHS aims to enhance lives by creating communities that provide affordable, safe, and secure housing.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Partner on projects to create affordable, safe, and secure housing for marginalized communities.
- Collaborate on initiatives that promote social connections and community building among residents, addressing issues like social isolation and creating a sense of belonging.
- Explore co-hosting 'Connecting Neighbours Program' events.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- **Affordable Housing:** ENFHS provides a diverse range of rental homes across Metro Vancouver, including subsidized and affordable market housing, from studios to five-bedroom units, supporting low- to moderate-income households.
- **Resident Well-being Programs:** Initiatives like the Menstrual Equity Program offer free reusable and disposable menstrual products to residents in need, enhancing health and well-being.
- **Connecting Neighbours Program:** Supports resident-led activities to improve social connections and combat isolation, enriching community engagement through events like barbecues and gardening days.
- **Maintenance Services:** Offers residents access to maintenance requests and emergency maintenance services to ensure safe and comfortable living environments.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ (General Inquiries) [info@enfhs.ca](mailto:info@enfhs.ca)

✉ (Projects) [projects@enfhs.ca](mailto:projects@enfhs.ca)

☎ 604-451-4412

Unit 21 - 3550 SE Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5S 4R3



# DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMENS' CENTRE

*Serving women in the Downtown Eastside since 1978*

dewc.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

DTES, Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

To provide a safe, non-judgmental environment for self-identifying women (Cis, Trans, Two-Spirit), from all walks of life, who live and/or work in the Downtown Eastside. To achieve this goal, DEWC works to provide supportive, safe surroundings which include meals, counseling, advocacy, and programs to nurture and empower members.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaborate on advocacy and support services that address systemic inequities affecting both Black and Indigenous women, including legal assistance and navigation of public systems.
- Develop joint cultural and educational programs that celebrate and uplift unhoused BIPOC communities, encouraging mutual understanding and empowerment.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Meal Program: 1,000 meals prepared daily for women and their children across three professional kitchens.
- Housing Support: The Housing Team assists members in overcoming barriers to accessing stable housing, providing support and resources to secure safe accommodations.
- Advocacy: Specialized Services staff support women navigating healthcare, justice, and public systems, addressing challenges shaped by systemic inequity, including assistance with legal or governmental bodies.
- Indigenous Women's Project: Collaborates with women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals to develop and implement cultural, recreational, social, and Indigenous educational activities, providing emotional support related to residential school trauma, cultural isolation, racism, and violence.
- Skills Development: Empower residents of the DTES for overall life improvement, gaining confidence and new practical skills.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [admin@dewc.ca](mailto:admin@dewc.ca) ☎ 236-862-7582

(Drop-in Services)  
302 Columbia Street  
25 E. Hastings Street

(Shelters)  
412 E. Cordova Street  
398 Powell Street  
265 E. Hastings Street





# ABORIGINAL MOTHER CENTRE SOCIETY (AMCS)

*Empowering aboriginal mothers to transform their lives*

aboriginalmothercentre.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

AMCS provides a supportive environment where Aboriginal mothers and their children can thrive, focusing on cultural and holistic values. AMCS' mission is to offer housing and support services to mothers who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or involved with child welfare services, with the goal of reaching self-sufficiency and family unity.


## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Co-creating culturally relevant childcare and family support services.
- Co-organizing community events to promote cultural exchange and understanding.
- Sharing resources and strategies to enhance community engagement and support services.
- Developing joint programs that support housing and wellness for BIPOC communities.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Transformational Housing: Offers 16 suites for mothers and up to three children under age 9, providing a safe environment to prevent homelessness and child welfare intervention.
- Licensed Daycare: Provides culturally enriched childcare for children aged 3-5, focusing on Aboriginal culture, values, tradition, and language.
- Family Wellness: Offers programs such as parenting workshops, housing resources, life skills development, and self-care workshops to enhance parenting skills and promote self-sufficiency.
- Community Kitchen: Provides nutritious meals, a sense of community, and job training opportunities for local Aboriginal community members.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

 [info@aboriginalmothercentre.ca](mailto:info@aboriginalmothercentre.ca)  604-558-2627

2019 Dundas Street, Vancouver BC, V5L 1J5





# URBAN NATIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION (UNYA)

*Training the Leaders of Tomorrow*

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Founded in 1988, UNYA is committed to empowering Indigenous youth aged 12 to 30 in Metro Vancouver. The organization provides culturally responsive, holistic programs and services in a safe, fun, and healthy environment, aiming to support youth in their personal, educational, and career development.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Organizing community events to promote cross-cultural understanding and solidarity.
- Sharing resources and expertise to enhance health and wellness services for marginalized youth.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

✉ [info@unya.bc.ca](mailto:info@unya.bc.ca) ☎ 604-254-7732

1618 East Hastings Street East, Vancouver, BC V5L 1S6

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Alternative Education: Aries Program (youth aged 13-16) and Cedar Walk Program (16-19) to support students whose needs are not being met in traditional school settings.
- Native Youth Health and Wellness Centre: Provides culturally relevant health services, including access to nurse practitioners and wellness programs.
- Native Youth Learning Centre (NYLC): A computer-based learning center supporting the personal, educational, and career development of Indigenous youth aged 15-30.
- Kinnections Program: Connects Indigenous youth with mentors to support goal setting and positive change.
- Overly Creative Minds (OCM): Offers Indigenous youth a safe space to explore arts and culture, helping them find and strengthen their voices.
- Aboriginal Youth First Sports & Rec: Provides weekly drop-in programming, including fitness classes, yoga, kickboxing, etc.
- Ravens Lodge: A transitional group home for female Indigenous youth who are in the care of the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society.
- Two-Spirit Collective: Provides support, resources, and programming for Indigenous youth who identify as Two-Spirit or LGBTQ+.



# HELPING SPIRIT LODGE SOCIETY (HSLs)

*Dedicated to provide wrap-around services to Women and Children fleeing violence*

hsls.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Helping Spirit Lodge Society is the leading Indigenous women's organization in the Lower Mainland working to alleviate family violence and enhance community wellness through a traditional, holistic approach. Established in 1990, HSLs' mission is to provide safe, protective shelter to Indigenous women and children, provide holistic educational programs for enhancement and offer support and advocacy services for Indigenous peoples.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Creating culturally relevant support services for BIPOC women and children affected by domestic violence.
- Organizing community outreach programs to assist individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Developing joint housing initiatives to support marginalized communities.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Spirit Lodge Transition House: A first-stage transition house offering safe and supportive accommodation for up to 30 days to women and children escaping domestic violence. Services include 24-hour staff support, basic necessities, and referrals to specialized counseling and treatments.
- Spirit Way Transition House: A 14-unit second-stage residential program providing up to 18 months of accommodation for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. The program focuses on holistic healing and supports residents in gaining skills and confidence to achieve independence.
- Journey Home Housing First: Supports individuals and families, with a special focus on individuals who are chronically or episodically homeless, to find and maintain permanent housing. The program operates using the Housing First Model, offering services such as case management, housing needs assessment, and connections to community resources.
- Bear Clan Outreach: An outreach team that connects with individuals sleeping outdoors and experiencing homelessness. Services include wellness checks, provision of basic necessities, and referrals to appropriate programs.

## CONTACT & OFFICE

 [reception@hsls.ca](mailto:reception@hsls.ca)  604.874.6629

3965 Dumfries Street, Vancouver, BC V5N 5R3



# SWAHILI VISION INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (SVIA)

*Promoting Swahili Language, Culture, and Arts*

swahilivision.org

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Dedicated to promoting Swahili language, culture, and arts, SVIA serves as a community for Swahili speakers and individuals interested in Swahili heritage, aiming to empower and unify the community through offering cultural and educational programs.


## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaborate on events and programs that celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage of both Swahili-speaking and Black communities.
- Develop joint initiatives that empower youth through mentorship, educational workshops, and cultural exchanges, promoting leadership and community involvement.
- Partner on housing projects that address the needs of marginalized communities, ensuring access to culturally appropriate and supportive living environments.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Swahili Week: An annual week-long celebration that immerses participants in Swahili culture, featuring language workshops, music, dance, and culinary experiences.
- Youth Program: Engages youth in activities that promote personal growth and community involvement, including mentorship from seniors, crime prevention workshops, and cultural arts workshops.
- Seniors Program: Addresses senior isolation by enriching connection and engagement through activities that promote well-being and inclusivity.
- Joint Housing Project: In partnership with the Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT), SVIA is developing affordable housing in New Westminster for Black and Indigenous families, Elders, and individuals. The project includes various apartment sizes and amenities to promote cultural exchange and community building.
- Empowering Single Mothers: Provides support to single mothers through mentorship, skills development, job readiness workshops, assistance in balancing work and parenthood, and guidance on securing affordable housing and resources.

## CONTACT

 [info@swahilivision.org](mailto:info@swahilivision.org)



# AFIYA CARE COLLECTIVE

*Culturally Driven Healthcare for Black Communities*



## AREAS OF OPERATION

Surrey and Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

Afiya Care Collective is dedicated to dismantling systemic barriers in healthcare for Black, African, and Caribbean (BAC) communities in BC. Through advocacy, research, and community-driven initiatives, they work to create culturally safe, accessible, and equitable healthcare services. Afiya are currently working towards establishing a Black-led healthcare facility in Surrey, BC that prioritizes holistic well-being and promotes trust within the healthcare system.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Partner in conducting research that explores systemic barriers within healthcare systems affecting Vancouver and Surrey's Black communities.
- Host community health and wellness events centered on Black experiences.
- Support Black community members in accessing culturally competent healthcare close to home.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- The collective conducts research to identify barriers and facilitators for effective primary care for BAC populations in Canada. This includes scans of academic public health curricula across Canada to address gaps in public health education regarding Black health issues.
- Afiya emphasizes collaboration, inclusivity, and empowerment by involving the BAC community in the development process to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes. This approach seeks to address health disparities and inequities by directly involving the affected community

## CONTACT

✉ [info@afiyacarecollective.ca](mailto:info@afiyacarecollective.ca)



**AREAS OF OPERATION**

Province-wide (BC)

**PURPOSE**

A Black-led non-profit organization promoting sustainable development and reconciliation through practical learning and action in Rwanda and Canada. By leveraging lessons from Rwanda's post-genocide reconciliation model, Building Bridges With Rwanda empowers BIPOC communities through workshops and cross-cultural exchanges that promote understanding and resilience.

**AREAS FOR COLLABORATION**

- Joint mentorship initiatives connecting Black youth in Vancouver with Rwandan youth.
- Youth empowerment programs and Black-led initiatives focused on sustainable urban development.
- Food security initiatives for Black communities.

**CONTACT**

Lama Mugabo (he/him) - Founding Director and Chair

 [lmugabo75@gmail.com](mailto:lmugabo75@gmail.com)

**PROGRAMS OFFERED**

- Reflection tours in Rwanda
- Youth programs
- Educational partnerships
- Public engagement events



Professor June Francis, Professor Stephen Rulisa, and BBR Chair Lama Mugabo

# BLACK ARTS CENTRE (BLAC)

*A space for artists and creatives*

theblackartscentre.ca

## AREAS OF OPERATION

Surrey and Metro Vancouver (BC)

## PURPOSE

An artist-run centre, cultural hub and community space owned and operated by Black youth in Surrey, BC. BLAC exists to support and celebrate Black art and artists across disciplines at a local, national, and international scale.

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Cultural events: joint exhibitions, live music performances, and storytelling.
- Educational workshops: Black history, BIPOC social justice, arts education.
- Community outreach and engagement programs.
- Youth mentorship: workshops and career support for emerging artists.

## CONTACT

✉ [theblackartscentre@gmail.com](mailto:theblackartscentre@gmail.com)

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

Hosts art exhibitions, performances, events, workshops and other diverse programming. This multifaceted approach provides infrastructure for Black art, creativity, and imagination. The BLAC additionally helps facilitate mentorship programs between emerging and established artists.

BLAC's Instagram page ([@theblackartscentre](https://www.instagram.com/theblackartscentre)) is the primary source for receiving announcements, updates and information relating to events and programming.

## OFFICE

10305 City Pkwy #105,  
Surrey, BC V3T 4Y8

Open Mondays &  
Wednesdays | 1 - 6 PM







# UBC BLACK COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Opportunities to connect with youth at UBC Vancouver*

## AREAS OF OPERATION

UBC Vancouver (BC)

## AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Partnering on youth-led projects centered on Black empowerment and community building in Hogan's Alley and the Lower Mainland.
- Mentorship and knowledge-sharing between students, residents, and community members.
- Hosting legal workshops on tenants' rights and urban displacement.
- Supporting Hogan's Alley Society's legal research and policy development.
- Grassroots activism on housing justice, community displacement, and cultural preservation.
- Organizing cultural and social events that build community connections within Metro Vancouver / the Lower Mainland.
- Collaborating on health and wellness programs for Black communities.



## GROUPS LIST & CONTACT

UBC Black Caucus: [blackcaucus.ubc.ca](mailto:blackcaucus.ubc.ca)  [black.caucus@ubc.ca](mailto:black.caucus@ubc.ca)

Black Muslim Collective:  [blackmuslimcollectiveubc@gmail.com](mailto:blackmuslimcollectiveubc@gmail.com)

Black Graduate Student Network:  [ubc.bgsn@gmail.com](mailto:ubc.bgsn@gmail.com)

Black Law Student Association:  [allardblsa@gmail.com](mailto:allardblsa@gmail.com)  [@ubcblsa](https://www.instagram.com/ubcblsa)

Black Student Union:  [ubcbstu@gmail.com](mailto:ubcbstu@gmail.com)  [@ubcbstu](https://www.instagram.com/ubcbstu)

National Society of Black Engineers UBC:  [nsbeubc@gmail.com](mailto:nsbeubc@gmail.com)  [@nsbe\\_ubc](https://www.instagram.com/nsbe_ubc)

Beyond Tomorrow Scholars Program: [beyondtomorrow.ubc.ca](http://beyondtomorrow.ubc.ca)

UBC Black Medical Students' Association:  [ubcbmsa@gmail.com](mailto:ubcbmsa@gmail.com)  [@ubcbmsa](https://www.instagram.com/ubcbmsa)

